

TABLE 1
POWERS AND DUTIES OF CITIES

POWERS AND DUTIES	HOME RULE CITY	FIRST CLASS CITY	SECOND CLASS CITY	REFERENCE
Public Education	If the city is in the unorganized borough it must provide the service in accordance with AS 14. A home rule city is not permitted to do so within organized boroughs.	Same as for a home rule city.	The city is not allowed to provide the service under any circumstance.	AS 29.35.160 AS 29.35.260(b) AS 14.12.010 AS 14.12.025
Planning, Platting & Land Use Regulation	If the city is in the unorganized borough, it must exercise the powers. If it is in an organized borough, it may be permitted by borough to exercise the powers.	Same as for a home rule city, except the power must be exercised in accordance with the procedure spelled out in AS 29.40.	The city is not required to exercise the powers in any circumstance, but may be permitted in all cases in the manner described for first class cities.	AS 29.35.180 AS 29.35.260(c) AS 29.40
Property Tax	The city may tax up to 30 mills, except where a higher levy is necessary to avoid default on debt. Some home rule charters may require voter approval to authorize the levy property taxes.	The city may tax up to 30 mills except where a higher levy is necessary to avoid default on debt. Voter approval is not required by statute, however, some general law municipal governments have more restrictive limitations imposed at the local level.	The city may tax up to 20 mills, except where a higher levy is required to avoid default. Voter approval is required.	AS 29.45.550– AS 29.45.590;

Sales Tax	The rate of levy may be limited by charter. Requirements for voter approval may also be set by charter	There is no limit on the rate of levy of sales taxes; however, voter approval is required.	Same as for a first class city.	AS 29.45.670 AS 29.45.700
Other Powers	Possess all legislative powers not prohibited by law or charter	May exercise other powers not prohibited by law	May exercise other powers not prohibited by law	State Constitution – Art. X, § 11 AS 29.35.250 AS 29.35.260 AS 29.35.410
City Council composition and apportionment	Determined by charter or ordinance.	6 members elected at-large, except the council may provide for election other than at-large.	7 members elected at-large, except the council may provide for election other than at-large.	AS 29.20.130
Election and Term of Mayor	Determined by charter or ordinance.	Elected at-large for a 3-year term, unless a different term not to exceed 4 years is provided by ordinance.	Elected from the city council for a 1-year term, unless a longer term is provided by ordinance. Mayor is selected by council (or by voters upon adoption of ordinance).	AS 29.20.230 AS 29.20.240
Vote by Mayor	Determined by charter or ordinance.	May vote to break a tie vote on the city council.	Votes on all matters.	AS 29.20.250
Veto by Mayor	Determined by charter or ordinance, except veto is not permitted of ordinance prohibiting possession of alcohol.	Has veto power with the same exception noted for home rule cities.	Has no veto power.	AS 29.20.270

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POWERS AND DUTIES	HOME RULE CITY	FIRST CLASS CITY	SECOND CLASS CITY	REFERENCE
Power of Eminent Domain	Permitted by statute.	Permitted by statute.	Permitted, but requires voter approval.	AS 29.35.030
Ability to Attain Home Rule Status	Already has home rule status.	Voters may adopt home rule charter.	May not adopt home rule charter without first reclassifying to a first class city.	AS 29.10.010